

WASHINGTON CRITIC

Published Daily, Sunday Excepted

The Evening Critic Publishing Company

BANKER KILBOURN, President.

W. SCOTT TOWERS, Treasurer.

H. H. SYLVESTER, Secretary.

Office, No. 941 D Street

POOR BUILDING,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

TERMS: Single Copy, 5 Cents; 3 Cents

By Mail, postage paid, one year, \$4.50

By Mail, postage paid, six months, \$2.50

All subscriptions payable in advance.

Address

THE WASHINGTON CRITIC,

Washington, D. C.

RICHARD H. SYLVESTER, Editor.

WASHINGTON, D. C., DEC. 30, 1885

SENATE AND PRESIDENT.

A "distinguished Senator" informs a

Western correspondent—and, by the

way, we notice it is only with Senators

who are "distinguished" that correspond-

ents are on familiar speaking

terms—that the adverse reports upon

President Cleveland's nominations now

before the Senate are likely to aggre-

gate at least a hundred in number, un-

less the offensive nominations are in

the meantime withdrawn.

Assuming this statement to be true,

it goes very far towards confirming the

accuracy of the statement made over

six months ago by THE CRITIC to the

effect that a programme of opposition

to Mr. Cleveland's appointments was

agreed upon at a Senatorial confer-

ence in March. It shows at least

that the spirit which predominated at

that conference has not become so

much modified by the lapse of time or

course of events that it hesitates to as-

sert itself now that the nominations of

the President are coming up to be acted

on.

While still adhering to the truth of

our original statement, however—a

statement that has never been suc-

cessfully contradicted, simply because

it was the statement of a fact—we have

reason to believe that not enough Re-

publican Senators can be counted now

to make possible or profitable the

more factious war upon the Ad-

ministration that was at first com-

templated.

The assumption, therefore, that ad-

verse reports are to be made upon such

a large number of nominations, as sug-

gested by the "distinguished" Senator

above referred to, is somewhat strained.

The element of partisan antagonism to

the President in the Senate is by no

means inconsiderable or without in-

fluence, but it is in a minority, and

there are considerations of public

policy as well as of party conservatism

that are more than likely to hold it

in check. If not, so much the better

for the President. It is in his power

to outgeneral the enemy at every point

of attack and make capital out of every

appointment that is rejected on insuffi-

cient cause, or for reasons that do not

commensurate themselves to the calm,

common-sense judgment of the country.

ALABAMA'S BIG FUTURE.

In reference to the wonderful growth

of Birmingham, Ala., it appears that

the extension of the Georgia Pacific

Railway across the central coal basin,

twenty-five miles west of Birmingham,

has begotten great activity in the coal

land market, and that coal lands of the

University that were selling at \$12.50

are now held at \$20, while selected coal

lands are of much greater value. This

Georgia (Atlanta) & Mississippi Road

penetrates the centre of the coal basin,

and will the roads from Memphis and

that from Sheffield (on the Tennessee),

both of which will pierce the very

heart of the coal fields twenty-five

miles west of Birmingham. These

roads are now leased at 10 cents a ton

to coal diggers, and thus pay the owners

\$800 per acre. In other words, in

selling these coal fields the vendors

guarantee the "output" of 6,000 tons

for each acre. The coal measures are

said to underlie one another through

the depth of 5,000 feet, twice the thick-

ness of the richest mines of Pennsylv-

ania. Eight or ten furnaces breathe

flame and smoke through all the days

and nights of the year, and a cotton mill

and glass factory will soon give em-

ployment to laborers who can live in

the mild climate of Birmingham for

one-fourth less than in New England.

When the roads from Birmingham

to Sheffield and Memphis are completed

during the coming year, St. Louis and

Memphis will become the great dis-

tributing points for coal and iron of

Birmingham, where ten railways will

then converge. These coal fields and

iron mines are also penetrated by the

Warrior River, which, it is proposed,

shall be made navigable for barges.

One tugboat on the Mississippi is the

equivalent in the transportation of

heavy freights in barges of twenty

locomotives. When these barges may

be used and Mobile Harbor is opened,

the navies of the world passing through

transatlantic canals or over ship

railways will be supplied with iron at \$5

or \$6 per ton and with coal at less than

\$1.00 per ton at Mobile. If Mobile be

made accessible and the Warrior River

opened to the sea, Alabama becomes

instantly the richest of States and

Birmingham the most prosperous of

Southern cities.

BOSTON'S NEW WATER SCHEME.

The proposition of Benjamin F.

Butler that the city of Boston take

measures to obtain her water supply

from the Merrimack, just above the

dam at Manchester, New Hampshire,

on the high moral ground that the first

use of pure water should be for drink-

ing and domestic, rather than manufac-

turing purposes, is somewhat calcu-

lated to disturb the entente cordiale

between New Hampshire and Massachu-

setts—or at least between Boston and

the city of Manchester.

"Not if we know it," promptly re-

sponds the Manchester Union, "the

present complications concerning the

Merrimack and its sources are sufficient

for the present." Under no conceivable

circumstances would it entertain a

proposition granting the Bostonians

such a monopoly, and should the pub-

lic necessity ever arise for utilizing the

Merrimack at that place for domestic

water supply, it should only be done

through an aqueduct, furnishing water

liberally at every point on the transit

within and without the State. Not

even "virtuous Boston" has rights in

this regard superior to those of any

other community lying on a feasible

line between the lake and the sea.

The Union's head is level on this point

and all New Hampshire will stand by

it to forefend the grasp of a foreign

monopoly upon a privilege that added to

the water power rights now controlled

by another foreign corporation, might

eventually blind Manchester hand and

foot.

There's millions in the scheme were

it ever permitted to materialize,

but we fear that General Butler will

find the Granite Hills solid and unani-

mous against him, should he seriously

undertake to invade their fastnesses and

tap the sacred waters of the Merrimack

for the benefit of the Hub.

THE MUGWUMP.

The Mugwump has been having a

rather tough time of it since the No-

vember elections. He has been buffeted

about by all other parties and political

creeds. He has been derided by big

people and little people—even small

boys have hooted him as he walked

along in a transcendental kind of a

way. There have been none so poor

as did him that reverence which he

believes is his by inherent right. His

ways have not been those of pleasant-

ness nor his thought processes tinged

with self-complacency as they used to

be. In short, the poor Mugwump

has had about as hard a time of it

as a Civil-Service Commissioner. But now it seems

that he is about to have a turn in the

tide; there are signs of a rift in the clouds

that have lowered over his house. A

new edition of Webster's Unabridged

is to be shortly issued, and on one page

of it the Mugwump will find something

to soothe him in his deep sorrow. Un-

der the classification of the words be-

ginning with M he will find himself de-

fined. The Mugwump is an Indian

name and means "big chief." Of

course the lexicographer who under-

takes his definition will give its origin

and meaning. Thus, although he has

not been able to get into much office,

he can get some consolation by know-

ing that he has a firm place in the

vocabulary. Of course that position

will not be very great for one who

wants the earth; but it will be some-

thing.

THERE IS A TOWN IN NEW ENGLAND—

the name of it is the War Department

refuses to make public—which is going

to have an anniversary celebration, and

being proud of its record in the late

war, intended to make that portion of

its history one of the most prominent

features of the anniversary event. In

order to have everything official about

the military section of the jubilee, the

town authorities wrote to the War De-

partment for a transcript of the records

of the soldiers whom it had furnished

to the Union Army. Although against

the general rules of the department an

exception was made in this case, and

the material asked for was furnished.

And now it appears from the official

data that about sixty citizens of the

place were drafted, twenty-four of

whom were accepted after examination.

Of the number accepted twenty-three

promptly put in substitutes, and the

other, with equally commendable

alacrity, fled him to Canada where he

remained until the cruel war was over.

The military features of the anniversary

celebration, we are informed, has been

indefinitely postponed on account of

the official records.

AN EXPLANATION OF THE RECENT

failure of Colonel Henry Waterson to

secure an audience with Secretary

Edgerton, it is said that the card sent

in was that of "Henry W. Waterson,"

and the Secretary knowing no such

man, refused to see the general editor

and the friends accompanying him in

the capacity, we suppose, of a body

guard to the star-eyed goddess of

reform, who is Mr. Waterson's constant

companion. As the original account

of his rebuff stated that he and his

friends had before reaching the War

Department been having "a good time"

going, gradually out of fashion for

people in private life to receive on the

first day of January. Many well-known

houses in Washington will, therefore, be

closed on that day. There will be no

parties, and the new year will be seen

in the old and new in one. Such parties

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